



Voucher News

Winter 2009

A Newsletter for San Diego County Housing Authority Rental Assistance Program Participants

Accessible Apartments

The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse (NAAC) has a listing of over 70,000 accessible apartments nationwide. NAAC can be reached via e-mail at: clearinghouse@naahq.org or by visiting the web page, at: www.forrent.com

A local listing of units available to the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program can be found on our website at: www.sdhcd.org in the Renter Resources page.

Violence Against Women Act 2005 (VAWA)



VAWA affords rights to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking who are applicants or participants of the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

VAWA places restrictions on evictions from Section 8-assisted housing, and denial or termination of Section 8 benefits for violations of the lease or family obligations due to a household member being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) at 202-307-6026 or visit the DOJ website at:

www.ovw.usdoj.gov/vawa.htm

Free or low cost health insurance for children!

Your child may be eligible for this low-cost health insurance. For more information, contact the County's San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network (SD-KHAN) at 800-675-2229 or visit the website at www.sdkhan.org.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status. If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact the HUD Hot Line at (800) 669-9777.

Commit to Conserve

The Department of Housing and Urban Development encourages public housing agencies and housing residents to conserve energy. The following list is just a sample of things you can do every day to help conserve energy:

- * Turn off lights when leaving the room
- * Use microwave ovens to cook small meals
- * Take shorter showers
- * Report maintenance issues with leaking air conditioning and refrigerators
- * Change light bulbs from inefficient incandescent light bulbs to Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)
- * Use short wash cycles on dishwashers and clothes washers
- * Use cold water when washing clothes



Reporting Responsibility

The family must report **in writing** any changes in income, assets and household composition within 14 days of the change taking place. Changes in income include increase or decrease in pay, new or termination of employment. Changes in assets include opening or closing your checking, savings, money market, certificate of deposits, etc. Changes in household composition include having a baby, getting married, family member moving out or into the home. You may not allow anyone to move into the subsidized unit without prior approval from the Housing Authority unless it is by birth, adoption or court-awarded custody.

Failure to report any changes may result in an overpayment and/or termination of your rental assistance.

When in doubt, contact your Housing Specialist!

Moving to another address?

If you are considering moving into a new unit, please remember to give your current landlord a written 30-day notice and send a copy of it to your housing specialist. Your housing specialist cannot send you the necessary paperwork until your written notice is received. You must submit verification of your income and assets timely in order for your housing worker to calculate your new rent portion. Your new unit must pass a Housing Quality Standard inspection prior to payment of your rental assistance. The utilities must be turned on and working before the inspector can schedule an inspection. Responding promptly can speed the process for you.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

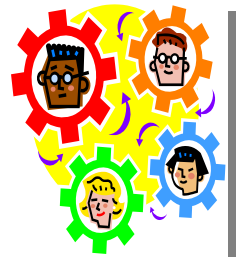
The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to eligible household to meet the costs of home energy and to attain better energy self-sufficiency by making payments to energy suppliers.

For details please visit the website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>

**Read the Important Information
on the Reverse Side**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We need you to serve on our Boards! The Section 8 Rental Assistance and Public Housing Programs are required to have a Resident Advisory Board comprised of program participants. Two participants must also serve two-year terms on the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners are **paid** for each meeting they attend and serve along with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. To be a Commissioner, you must first serve on the Resident Advisory Board.



Volunteering is its own rewards.

If you are interested in serving on the Resident Advisory Board, have transportation, and are able to attend at least two meetings a year, please complete the information below and return in your recert packet. We hope you are willing to serve.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing representative. You will be contacted regarding this application during the next 12 months.

Print Name _____

Home Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Housing Representative: _____

What are your principal areas of interest in serving our community?

What employment or other experience or special knowledge do you have?

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this in your packet to your Housing Representative.

Note to Housing Representative – please forward to Myrna Manaloto

***Read the Important Information
on the Reverse Side***